

# The Mountain Yodeler Bulk Standard U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 2 Lake Hughes, CA

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November 1, 2011

Volume 11 No. 11

Serving Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Leona Valley, Green Valley, Three Points and Neenach

# New Landline Phone for Mountain Yodeler

Effective immediately, please use the following contact information for The Mountain Yodeler: email: mountainyodelernews@gmail.com Cell phone: 661-965-2201. Landline: 661-622-7040. The mailing address remains P.O. Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA

This email address is for articles, photos, ads and inquiries for the Yodeler. It can also be used for personal messages to the editor. All other emails can be sent to dahliajokes@gmail.com

# Forest Service Approves Repeater for Grass Mtn.

By Dahlia Grossman Editor/publisher

The U.S. Forest Service has given permission for **CERT** (Community

Emergency Response Team) to install a repeater on Grass Mountain in Green Valley. District Ranger Bob Blount notified CERT this week that placement of the repeater on Forest Service land was approved.

The repeater will enable CERT-trained personnel in Lake Hughes, Elizabeth Lake, Green Valley, Leona Valley and Three Points to communicate with each other via amateur radio during an emergency.

Until now, emergency workers in Green Valley and to a lesser extent in Three Points - have been severely hampered by the inability to communicate with other Lakes and Valleys Communities.

The significance of this agreement cannot be overemphasized. "It's like going from 5% coverage to 90%," said Rob Kennard, area commander for Lakes and Valleys CERT. "It's an immense improvement," he

CERT has been working diligently for more than a year to obtain permission

from the U.S. Forest Service to put a repeater on their property atop Grass Mountain. Endorsements from the affected communities' town councils and the local Fire Safe Council had a big impact on the approval process, according to Kennard.

"In the beginning, the forestry had a few issues, but we addressed them all," said Kennard. "We are having a meeting next week to iron out all the details," he said.

Kennard told The Yodeler that the CERT organization is extremely grateful for the input from all five communities. "We thank the Palmdale Sheriffs Dept., Scott Polgar of L.A. County Fire Dept., and Supervisor Antonovich and his deputy, Norm Hickling for their letters of support.

"We also are grateful to Joe Brong, communications director of CERT, the Fire Safe Council, Doris Karabinus for her research, and Dick Miller of Telecom West, who is coordinating the equipment.

"It was a lot of work by a lot of people - a group of people working together for the common good," said Kennard.

CERT is actively pursuing grant money to fund the proj-



Guy Randles presented Station 157 with a cordless reciprocating saw. Photo: Alesia Robertson. See article below.

#### Green Valley Fire Station Receives Saw

By Lu Bole, senior staff writer

The October Green Valley Town Council meeting had a exciting presentation to our own Volunteer Fire Station 157! Mr. Guy Randles presented a cordless reciprocating saw, to our fire station. The saw was donated by Jason Onori from So. Cal. Tools.

Bob Porter, in thanking them for the saw, stated: "I hope it is never needed, but I'm so grateful for the donor's generosi-

Station 157 does still need some things: first and most important: "More volunteers!" They also need a generator to enable the station's siren, etc. to function in case of a power failure, and a "Tuff Shed" for storage. If anyone reading this has access to either of these items, and is willing to donate them to Station 157, they would be gratefully received!

# Honoring Mary Ann Floyd

The following is a transcript of the words spoken by John Seymour at the dedication of the museum in Leona Valley on September 25:

I want to welcome everyone for coming this afternoon so that we may share in a dream that Mary Ann Floyd had in preserving the local history.

Even before Ritter Ranch started moving dirt, Mary Ann would collect Indian artifacts on her many walks in the countryside.

She would not only collect all sorts of Indian and Western artifacts, she would then read about them and became very knowledgeable about our local history.

When the developer started developing the Ritter property, she was very concerned about preserving the archeological history of the area and voiced her concerns to the City of Palmdale, the county, and the developer.

See Mary Ann Floyd, page 3

# Councils May Form Co-op

Distribution: 2,500

By Dahlia Grossman Editor/publisher

Neenach Town Council -OSO - wants to form a consortium of northwest Antelope Valley town councils. According to Richard Skaggs, OSO president, forming this type of co-op would give area residents greater power in the face of common challenges, such as wind and solar projects. "Until we consolidate our town councils, we're not going to get the respect we deserve," said Skaggs at the October council meeting.

Skaggs said the consortium would be comprised of Neenach, Fairmont, Ante Acres, Three Points and the Lakes. Skaggs said he invited representatives from all the neighboring town councils to attend the October Neenach meeting, but only Three Points sent a representative. "We were hoping to get more reps here from the other councils to encourage each other," said Skaggs. "Otherwise we are going to get steamrolled," he

The next two meetings will be held on November 10 and December 8 at the Neenach Community Center on Ideal Avenue. For more information, go to OSOtc.com

#### THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

Deadline for ads. payments and articles for the December 1 issue is November 15. Send payments to Mountain Yodeler. Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA

For more information. call 622-7040 or email mountainyodelernews gmail.com

# Green Valley to Hold Holiday Boutique

By Bev Brownfield

Green Valley's 34th Annual Holiday Boutique will be held on November 19 and 20, from 9 am to 3 pm at the community center, 39118 Calle Bonita and Spunky Cyn. Rd.

Come out and shop with your local artists and crafters. We will have handmade aprons, quilts, soaps, jewelry, feather dusters, eggs and much more.

A country breakfast and lunch is available.

For more information on having a booth call Cheryl at 270-1039. For info during the event call the community center at

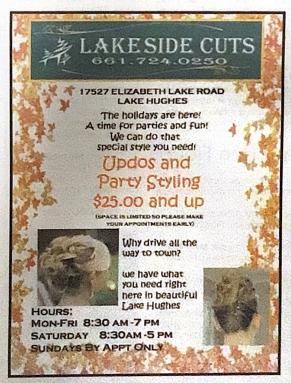
# Residents Urged to Attend **CERT** Course

Leona Valley Town Council Treasurer Peggy Fuller urged residents attending the October meeting to enroll in a Community Emergency Response Team class. Fuller said she attended a recent CERT refresher and was disappointed that she was the only one present from Leona Valley.

"It's a remarkable training and it's provided free," said Fuller, who noted that many employers will pay for their employees to go.

Some of the topics covered in these hands-on training sessions are search and rescue, medical First Aid, how to handle an emergency situation and how to prepare your home for an

Another course will be offered soon. For more information, go to AntelopeValleyCERT.com See page 2 for related article





Looking for some great local entertainment? Mayde in Ireland plays traditional Irish music every other Friday night at the open mic at The Rock Inn. Left to right: Dave Hammons, Randy Buckley and Kevin Reilly. Call the Rock Inn for details. Photo: Dahlia Grossman.

# Leona Valley Monitoring Barren Ridge

By Dahlia Grossman Editor/publisher

Leona Valley Town Council is keeping an eye on the Barren Ridge

Transmission Project because one of the alternate routes goes through Leona Valley. The town council is preparing a response to the **Environmental Impact Report** indicating that Leona Valley considers this particular alternate route a bad choice.

Although DWP's preferred route would go across Johnson Road in Elizabeth Lake, then down San Francisquito Canyon Road in Green Valley, one of the alternates would go over Godde Hill Road, past the bison ranch and continue on to Acton, taking four homes on its way.

Leona Valley resident Alice Benoit commented that DWP does not inform property owner of its intention to take their homes by eminent domain until after the route has been chosen.

Town council president Bill Elliott added that DWP does not ask for an easement. "If their power lines cross your property, you have to sell," said Elliott. "And they only pay market value, added Benoit, who explained that this could bankrupt a family whose home is "upside down.

# Church of the Lakes to Give Thanksgiving Food Baskets

The Church Of The Lakes is again offering Thanksgiving food baskets to those in need and living in our community. If you would like to receive a basket, please call, Dawn Dunn at 724-1435 BEFORE Wed., November 16.

Baskets will be available for pick up on Sunday, Nov. 20 between noon and 12:30 in the basement of the church. For those who feel they can help with our food mission, there will be a box available outside the church for any non-perishable items you would like to donate.



# Mary Ann Floyd

From page 1

This resulted in the recovery of over 600 Indian artifacts that have been carefully documented and are kept at the Indian museum in Lake Los Angeles. All of these artifacts were to be made available to Leona Valley on demand for display.

Another interest of Mary Ann's was to gain control of the Winery artifacts from the old Winery on the Ritter property. The plan was to use the materials from the old winery building and build a replica of the old winery to display all the wine processing equipment.

As it turned out, the old winery building was too unsafe to recover any of the building materials so we had to design a new building. It took a long time to build and thanks to Sertoma, the West Antelope Valley Historical Society,

Leona Valley Town Council and Leona Valley Improvement Association, here we are today celebrating Mary Ann's dream.

In order to display the Indian artifacts here in the museum building, a phone and security system had to be installed for their protection.

The Leona Valley Town Council sponsored the Mary Ann memorial fun November 1, 2011

and received donations throughout the community to build the display cabinets.

As previously mentioned, the Indian artifacts are safely stored in an air conditioned building at the Indian museum at Lake Los Angeles. Each item, regardless of size, has been identified and neatly packaged.

Three of us went to the Indian Museum and thought it would only take a short time to pick 30 or so items, but that was not true. Most of the artifacts are stone and have been worked into jewelry, cooking tools and weapons.

We now know how to identify the items from the list so next time it will not take so long.

We were asked by the people at the Indian Museum that the artifacts not be handled and we have someone here today to explain what the items are

These items will be returned in November and a new display will be selected. This process will be repeated a number of times throughout the coming months.

I would encourage everyone to visit the Indian Museum in Lake Los Angeles. The curator at the museum is a young lady by the name of Peggy Ronning, who has agreed to visit Leona Valley and talk about some of the artifacts.

Thank you again for participating in this historic event.

Photos: Top - The Floyd family #2 - Norm Hickling, deputy to Supervisor Antonovich, presents a commendation to John Seymour, president of West AV Historical Society

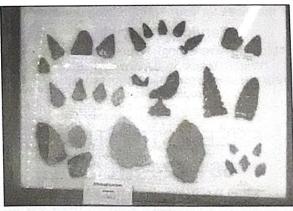
#3 - Richard Floyd displays commendation #4 - Artifacts loaned to museum by Lu Bole















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#### **Coming Events**

#### **ART GUILD** YARD SALE

#### "Moon Madness" at the Gallery

The Lakes and Valleys Art Guild will hold its annual yard sale at the Gallery at 43751 Lake Hughes Road in Lake Hughes from 10 am to 3 pm on Sat., November 12, 2011.

The sale will not only have items contributed by its many members, but will feature specially created moon-themed art donated by guild artists and priced affordably for beginning collectors.

Soft drinks, water, coffee and moon pies will be available, as well.

The Guild is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting young artists and art programs in the Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, Leona Valley and Antelope Valley areas, and providing a place for local artists to display their art.

The Gallery is open on weekends from 10 am to 5 pm.

For more information, please call the gallery during open hours at 661-724-1312, or email the Guild at lakesandvalleysag@gmail.com.

## Pampered Chef Party

The Leona Valley Improvement Association will sponsor a Pampered Chef party at 6 pm on November 3 at the Leona Valley Community Building, 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road.

This is a fundraising party for both ladies and gents and is hosted by consultant Terri Budke, allowing you to shop early for the holidays and purchase those special kitchen items for that culinary wizard in your life, or even for yourself. Your purchased items will be received before Christmas and LVIA has the opportunity to earn 10 to 15% of the money spent that will definitely help defer the community building expenses during the winter months.

Dessert, coffee and punch will be served to all who attend. Please join us and bring a friend for this fun evening and watch Terri prepare a very special dessert right in front of your eyes. A special drawing will take place but the winner must be present to receive it.

If you can't attend, you can still order online at: www.pamperedchef.biz/terribudke and click on "shop online" and then press the field that says LVIA (the fundraising organization) Perhaps many of you will remember last year's Pampered Chef party and consider joining us again for this truly enjoyable evening. Guaranteed to put you in the holiday mood.

LVIA would appreciate your support so PLEASE RSVP by calling Jan Clark at 270-9268.

# Free Magic Show Nov. 4

The Antelope Valley Bookmobile will hold one of their wonderful shows, The Magic of Tony Daniels, from 3:30 to 4:30 on Friday, November 4 at the Leona Valley Community Building, 8367 Elizabeth Lake Road, Leona Valley.

If you have never been to one of these events, I urge you to go. Although they are geared towards children, they are most enjoyable for adults too. The Bookmobile brings topnotch entertainers to our area and the events are

For more information call: (661) 948-8270 or go to colapublib.org The editor.

For ADA accommodation, such as sign language interpreter or materials in alternate format, call (661) 948-0796 (voice) or (661) 945-2503 (TTY), Tuesday - Friday, 10 -5, at least 6 days prior to



Missing cap wants to find owner. Found in Green Valley approx. 2 years ago, recently turned over to me to hopefully find the owner. Must be able to identify some of the pins on the cap. Please call Laura at 270-9235 or email laura.vernetti@gmail.com

#### Absentee Ballots Available

Leona Valley residents may pick up absentee ballots at Rancher's Market for the town council election. The election will take place on November 8 at the Leona Valley Community Building.

Absentee ballots must be postmarked no later than November 7. Absentee voters are reminded to sign the envelope, not the ballot.

All those registered to vote in Leona Valley are eligible to vote for the town council candidates.

Offer applies to most cars.

Expires 11/30/11

THE CO 6 We accept checks.

#### NOTICES

Call Firetighters needed for Green Valley and Leona Valley. Call John Grimm at 270-1628.

Ham Operators Needed In all communities, especially Green Valley. Call Doris at 609-3888 or the Fire Safe Council at 270-9911





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The preferred route would use the "same footprint," as the existing towers, but raises the new three-tier towers another 60 feet, from the current 120 feet to 180 feet.

This would require putting in a temporary line while the new towers are installed because the electrical transmission cannot be halted, due to the requirements of the generators above our area.

Green Valley's proposal would have the transmission lines start deviating from the above route at the second tower below the Green Valley Ranger Station, turn into the National Forest at that point, and come back to San Francisquito at the South Portal tower, therefore avoiding Green Valley private property completely.

The DWP did state at the meeting in Arcadia that the "GVTC has shown great professionalism, and that Dale Kimmel's leadership deserves great respect."

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#### Spotlight on Local Business: Jennifer Jones, photographer

By Lu Bole, senior writer

There is a new professional portrait photographer here in the Lakes and Valleys area. Her name is Jennifer Jones, and she does beautiful work. (See ad, page 14)

Jennifer is a fourth generation professional photographer, and she does a great variety of family portraits, in natural outside settings as well as the more traditional studio work. Jennifer prefers outside settings, as she feels that bold, natural backdrops make the composition of a family portrait into an actual work of art.

A real "plus" in using outside settings is that she can step outside the usual posed look and take action candids, such as someone flying a kite, enjoying a picnic, etc. Outside settings also bring out more natural expressions, especially in children and pets. (Yes, she does take portraits of cats, dogs, and norses ... whatever animal is considered "a part of the

What is probably even more important to families struggling in this economy is that she is very affordable. She will work individually with families, and will deliver all photos on a photo disc so they can



pick and choose which prints to enlarge or send to other family members.

She feels very strongly that every family should be able to afford to have family portraits taken often, as the children grow and change. And if Mom or Dad is the usual photographer, then there's always someone missing from that grouping. (Remember, in an emergency, what is the one thing that families try to grab in an evacuation? Photos.)

Jennifer would rather have clients call her two or three times a year for portraits, parties, new bables, family reunions, or weddings, and also recommend her to their friends than charge a fortune for a one-time photo shoot.

Jennifer has been shooting photos since she was 11. November 1, 2011

She has also enjoyed a career in Los Angeles and beyond, working for such clients as the Los Angeles Deputy Sheriff's Union, serving as their lead writer and photojournalist for five years; British Vogue during L.A. Fashion Week photographing top and emerging designer's runway shows; and for thousands of actors and models over the years. A list of clients and bio can be found on her website.

Although this was an exciting time in her life and she still works freelance from time to time, family photography resonates with her and inspires her work.

The lasting memory the family enjoys from the shoot experience, and the everlasting photos they'll share for generations to come makes her work deeply personal and priceless. She's always flattered when a family chooses her to capture their family at this moment in time. What a treasure!

Jennifer is also a professional make-up artist, so she can bring out a person's best features and minimize the flaws. She will come to your home, or go to a local natural setting near here. Her phone number is 661-262-3312; her website is www.jenniferjonesmedia.com

Also, see Jennifer's ad in the business directory.

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# LVIA Garage Sale a Success

By Christy Adams, contributing writer

Another successful LVIA community garage sale was held in Leona Valley on October 8. Several families sold items ranging from children's clothing to kitchen items to mountain bikes.

Everyone who stopped by had fun and made some great purchases.

The people of SERTOMA sold items to raise money for charity.

#### Lakes Town Council Seeks Candidates

The Lakes Town Council will have three vacancies this November. Rhett Blackwell, Debi Tallent and Chuck Kevwitch will all complete their terms at that time.

The council also needs

The council also needs two alternates. If you are interested in running for town council, please contact Lynnell Parker at lynnellpf@aol.com or 724-1137.

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# Editorial: Report all crime, no matter how small

People often tell me about "minor" crimes that have happened in the Lakes and Valleys that were not reported. These crimes range from gasoline stolen out of someone's gas tank to vandalism of a car or building to theft of "garden art" from a backyard or mail theft.

Whatever the crime, no matter how small, we need to report it.

During the past year we have been fortunate to have two full-time deputies patrolling our area; as a result our communities are very safe.

If we do not report every crime, no matter how small, it will appear to the sheriffs dept. that we do not need two deputies and this would be a great loss to our communities.

The other reason why it is important to report all criminal activity is this: If stolen property is recovered, the sheriffs dept. can not make an arrest if the theft has not been reported. So, for example, if something has been stolen from your property and you do not bother to report it, and it is later recovered, the thief can not be arrested.

Often we shrug it off, saying it must have been kids. This may or may not be true. Kids or adults, they should be held accountable for their actions.

The sheriffs department assigns deputies based on the number of calls that are received from an area. If we do not make those calls, we may lose a deputy.

We have two top-notch deputies in our area: Bob Schneider and Dennis Miller. Both are committed to keeping our communities safe. I think I speak for most residents in the Lakes and Valleys Communities when I say we don't want to lose one of them.

In order to keep our Lakes and Valleys safe and crime free, we all need to do our part. If you know someone who has been the victim of a crime, please urge him or her to make a report and thereby ensure the future safety of our communities.

The editor





# Solar Plant Hires Local Laborers; Plant Burglarized

By Dahlia Grossman Editor/publisher

Many local residents who have been out of work since the recession hit are now employed with First Solar. According to Richard Skaggs, president of Neenach's town council, 30 workers have so far been hired from our area. Some of the employees have started working; others still await a call confirming their hiring. One Lake Hughes man who started work on October 17 said the work is strenuous but he likes the job.

Skaggs said the hiring of local workers was part of the mitigation agreement put in place by Neenach's town council when Neenach residents found out about the project in its late stages.

Employment of some workers was delayed after the project site was burglarized on Sunday, October 16. According to Skaggs, \$100,000.00 worth of laser equipment was stolen and replacement equipment was not immediately available.

Because the site was heavily guarded, the company believes the burglary was an "inside job," according to Skaggs. Skaggs said the company waited for 10 hours for sheriffs to show up, reinforcing residents' desire that the empty schoolhouse be used as a sheriffs' substation.

Skaggs said the breakin is under investigation.

Neenach Town Council member Karl Humpheys said the council is monitoring the project to ensure that the company fulfills its mitigation agreement. "They have not complied with the promised use of animal friendly fences," said Humphreys at the council's October 20 meeting.

Humphreys also said the company had brought in experienced workers from out of state instead of hiring them locally. He said he understands that they needed to bring in some experienced workers but that others could be found locally.

Another transgression is that the company was to use 170th Street West to transport equipment rather than 138. "They were using 138 and that caused traffic jams," said Skaggs. "They have corrected that," he said.

# Lakes Queens Pageant Contestants Needed

The 2011 Hughes
Elizabeth Lakes Queens
would like interested young
ladies who reside in the
Lakes Communities to consider participating in the 2012
Hughes Elizabeth Lakes
Queens Pageant.

Orientation will be held in the middle of December 2011, with practices beginning in the middle of January 2012. The pageant is slated for early March 2012.

Details for orientation will be published in the December 2011 issue of *The* Mountain Yodeler.

If you have any questions, please contact Cindy Alcott (661.622.7017) for information regarding the Miss and Junior Miss Pageants, and Heidi Gesiriech (661.724.3077) for information regarding the Little Miss Pageant.

This is a great way for young ladies to become involved in and represent our communities. Please consider participating in this wonderful opportunity. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Photo at upper left: 2011 Lakes queens: Miss Lakes Sarah Marie Fitzgerald, Junior Miss Ashley Rich, and Little Miss Elyse Marie Carroll.

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# Your health: Preventing and Treating ADHD in Children

By Joel Fuhrman, M.D.
Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
is the most common neurobehavioral disorder diagnosed in
children, and its prevalence is
growing. Between 2003 and
2007, there was a 22%
increase in ADHD prevalence
in the United States - today,
about 9.5% of school-age children have ADHD.1

ADHD is characterized by restlessness, difficulty focusing, poor impulse control, distractibility, and in some cases overactivity. These symptoms have significant negative consequences on the child's academic performance, social skills, and relationships with family members, teachers, and peers. In addition, ADHD is often accompanied by learning disorders, discipline problems, anxiety, and/or depression.2

ADHD is a complex disorder of the brain that is believed to be caused by a combination of genetic and environmental factors.3,4 Smoking and alcohol use during pregnancy, micronutrient deficiencies, excessive television watching early in life, and inadequate omega-3 fatty acid intake are a few of the environmental factors that increase risk.3,5 Nutrition and ADHD

Poor nutrition is a significant concern for attentional problems and ADHD – here are some of the dietary factors that have been linked to ADHD risk in scientific studies:

High sugar intake is also associated with hyperactive behavior and ADHD.6,7

Inadequate micronutrient intake. Supplementation to correct micronutrient deficiencies has been shown to improve ADHD symptoms.2,8

A low-nutrient diet high in processed foods and soft drinks at age 4 ½ has been associated with hyperactivity in children at age 7. 9 Similarly, a "Western" dietary pattern has also been associated with ADHD in 14-year-olds.10

Food additives and dyes: many colored foods are marketed to children, and hyperactivity in children following ingestion of food dyes is well documented in placebo-controlled studies.6,11

Furthermore, a 2004
meta-analysis of 16 studies
in children who were already
hyperactive showed that their
hyperactive behavior
increased after ingesting food
colorings.12

There is preliminary evidence that certain pesticides (called organophosphates) commonly found on some fruits are associated with ADHD.13

Omega-3 fatty acids (especially DHA) are the building blocks a child needs to build a healthy brain. Insufficient omega-3 levels are common in children with ADHD, and there is evidence that omega-3 supplementation, especially in combination with the omega-6 fatty acid gamma-linolenic acid (GLA - found in borage oil and evening primrose oil) improves behavior and ADHD symptoms.14,15

For footnoted references, email mountainyodelernews@gmail.com or go to DrFuhrman.com

> DrFuhrman.com 1-800-474-WELL(9355)

#### Support Local Businesses



# Letter to the Editor

To the editor:

Several months ago the Yodeler had a short article greeting newcomers to the area with some tips to get acclimated: speed limits, driving courtesy and other things.

The one item that caught my eye was the official wind gauge for the area - a railroad tie hanging from a tree branch!

It took me a while, but now we have one. It's only been up a short time, but it has already gotten some snickers and guffaws.

I have to concede to folks "down below" that the wind does blow here. I tell them that my neighbor's chicken laid the same egg three times one windy day.

I thought you might like to actually see a railroad tie wind

Thanks for a great little paper and thanks for the idea for the wind gauge.

Sincerely, Robert or Bob with one "O" Collis, Leona Valley



# Letter to the Editor: The Town Drunk

To the editor:

Almost every town has at least one. Being the town drunk isn't gender or race specific; there are no boundaries.

They don't have to be a down and outer; they can easily be a business person and be active in the community. But nonetheless, they ARE the town drunk.

While some town drunks just sit quietly at the bar and don't bother anyone, some have to make their presence known. Those are the town drunks we could all live without and shouldn't have to be subjected to.

Bars have a legal responsibility to stop serving drinks when someone is about to cross the line but private functions (community functions) may not.

The town drunks that cross the line don't care who their audience is; it can be women, kids or men. They really don't care just as long as there is an audience.

The town drunk may start out happy and sober but may morph into a loud and foul-mouthed jerk. Never mind that they are at a community function with kids present.

Passing out in front of their audience is not uncommon either; after all there are no boundaries. In their own way, they are sure they are the life of the party.

The next day they will be sincerely apologetic, like every time before. They are very good at this because they have had a lot of practice.

We are expected to forgive them for their shortcomings and go on as if nothing happened. Forgiving them isn't doing them any favor and certainly ignoring what they do is not doing the community any favor.

It is enabling them to continue marring events because by doing nothing to stop them we are condoning their behavior and nothing changes. Maybe at the next event someone will think about this and take the initiative to step up and say, "Not this time."

Sincerely, Jennifer Fuller Leona Valley

# Leona Valley Introduces 2011 Town Council Candidates

Election date for town council members is November 8, 2011. Council members Bill Elliott, Suzy Love, and Christina Johnson are at the end of their terms.

#### Jeff Bolls



My name is Jeff Bolls, I am 51 years old and have lived in Leona Valley 23 years. My wife, (Cindy) and I have 2 girls, Jessica and Kristyn, and a boy, Jake, all of whom went to school in Leona Valley. We truly love this area and believe it is a great area to raise a family or retire.

I would like to be on the town council for a few reasons. I would like to see our community stay rural and continue that small town community spirit. I would also like to work on projects that would beautify Leona Valley like horseback trails and bike lanes.

I am against tract development, wind farms and transmission line encroachment.

I will work hard to make our community a place everyone would like to live.

#### **Bill Elliott**



I moved to Leona Valley (LV) in October 1998 and started attending town council meetings a couple of months later. I have been involved with the town council as a town council member and/or as a member of a committee for the past eight years. I have represented the LV community several times with LA County Regional Planning issues.

If elected for the 2011 through 2013 term I will continue to uphold the LV residents' desires to maintain our rural way of life, will fight to moderate the tract homes development known as "Valley Vineyards," and other future developments and issues concerning Leona Valley.

Unlike some candidates who wrote letters in support of Valley Vineyards, my record indicates my willingness to maintain our rural quality of life and to support the desires of the majority of our residents.

Please vote for me on November 8. Thank You.

#### Samantha Love



I was raised in Leona Valley since the age of three. I love our rural community and want to make sure that it is kept that way. I do not want to see it turned over to fanatical developers who would change our entire way of life not only by putting in tract homes, but also demolishing hillsides.

Any developments would also overwhelm our Leona Valley school and add a lot of traffic to our community.

I also am strongly in favor in preserving our wildlife and open spaces. There are many species here that are endangered and need to be protected by our community.

Please vote for me so I can help to preserve our beautiful community.

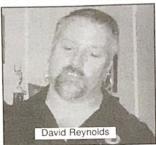
Thank you.

#### **David Reynolds**

I am a proud Leona Valley resident who is asking for your support as I run for Leona Valley Town Council.

I have worked hard to ensure that Leona Valley is a great place to raise a family in an agricultural, country setting.

I believe that county government can be too overbearing,



controlling and taxing.

I intend to fight against big city development and/or annexation, so will I fight against Los Angeles County's attempt to diminish our property values with zoning regulations. Our forefathers fought to establish Leona Valley as an agricultural community and I intend to make every effort to keep it that way.

I have spent the last ten years proving Leona Valley to be an ideal place to grow wine grapes that produce exceptional wines. As a result, Los Angeles County has embraced the idea that Leona Valley has much to offer to the wine industry and as a result is encouraging others in the industry to explore the possibilities available here in Leona Valley.

I will be an advocate for those who wish to explore these possibilities and I hope to see agricultural growth in our area and more people taking advantage of the popularity of Leona Valley wine grapes.

With the support of the past town council and neighboring wine regions, the Federal Government has approved Leona Valley as its own, independent American Viticulture Area. As a result, grapes grown in Leona Valley are now in greater demand which will bring the possibility of additional revenue into the area.

If you share in my desire to preserve Leona Valley's agricultural zoning status and encourage others to farm as well as protect our property values, then cast your vote for me.

#### Ken Schoeller

My wife and I are new residents of Leona Valley. We moved here from Palmdale in June 2011. Prior to moving to Leona Valley, we lived in Palmdale for 20 years. We love living in Leona Valley and enjoy the rural community. We would like to preserve this atmosphere.

I am 56 years old and have been in the aerospace industry since 1974. I am currently a pro-



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duction operations manager for Northrop Grumman Corporation. I have been working at the Northrop Grumman facility at Plant 42 since June 1990. I currently hold a Department of



Defense Top Secret Security clearance.

I have a bachelor's degree in business administration and have been very successful in all managerial positions held over the past 35 years.

I am a conservative Republican who believes in small government, low taxes and conservative spending.

I am very interested in politics and would like to serve this great community where we live. I believe I have the knowledge, people skills and budget skills required to serve our community very well.

#### **Richard Thomas**

I am a past president of the Leona Valley Town Council and currently serve on the development committee.

During my five years on the council I was involved with various community

issues, such as power lines, water, community standards and long-range planning and have testified before the L.A. County Regional Planning Commission concerning tract housing development in our valley.

See LV Town Council, page 9

# LV Town Council Candidates

continued from page 8

I have served as president and chairman of the board of directors of Leona Valley Sertoma (SErvice TO MAnkind). I am currently on the board of directors of the West Antelope Valley Historical Society and am being considered for the position of president of the Leona Valley Improvement Association.

I am a third generation native of Southern Californian. have been married for 53 years, have two children and five grandchildren.

I hold a bachelor and master of arts degree in education and have taught at high school, community college and university levels.

I have held various management positions in industry and retired in 1999 from American Honda Motor Company where I was executive vice president and a member of the board of directors.
I feel that my current knowl-

edge of the issues facing Leona Valley and my background in education and management will add vision and balance to the talents that already exist on the council.

I hope that the citizens of Leona Valley will continue to allow me to represent them in confronting the challenges of the future. We must all work together to keep Leona Valley the rural paradise that we all love and enjoy.

#### Jesse Valdez



I was born and raised in the Antelope Valley when Quartz Hill was still considered a rural area free of the development

November 1, 2011

that replaced established farms and orchards. I was taught to have gardens, raise small animals and appreciate my natural surrounding beauty.

When I moved to Leona Valley, I selected my residence so that I could spend a lifetime admiring the beauty of our valley and points beyond.

As a real estate broker and property manager in local business, I find my passions lie in communities, housing and the preservation of natural surroundings and historical structures and traditions. I am strongly in favor of preserving our community's country appeal and esthetics as well as our independent governance from our neighboring cities. I feel strongly in favor of protecting our zoning and restrictions.

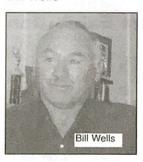
I was one of our many residents who joined together with the community and the town council to protect Leona Valley and our individual property views and values when we were threatened by power lines.

Vote for me and I will be judicious with fellow council members in uniformly representing the views of our community with the county and other governing bodies. I will work in harmony to affect the goals and duties of the town council and encourage our community's agricultural diversity. I feel confident about working with fellow

members in protecting our community resources, rights and values.

Please give me your vote.

#### Bill Wells



Hi, Bill Wells here.

I just wanted to express my interest in a position with Leona Valley Town Council. Most people know me and my wife Tamar, twin daughters Jamie and Chelsea, and my son Jacob for our country life style. We have lived in Leona Valley for 18 beautiful vears.

I thank those who have done a great job representing and protecting what we stand for in Leona Valley in the past. No matter which road we come home on, we are proud and excited to be in Leona Valley. Together lets protect our rural lifestyle.

Thanksl

# Free Craft Event Nov. 19

Submitted by Danica Duensing

On Saturday November 19 at Midsummer Fairies, 4306 West Avenue L, Quartz Hill (661) 718-1500 from 4-7pm I will be hosting a crafting circle!

All are welcome to attend! Please bring whatever craft project you are working on, including knitting, hand quilting, crocheting, scrapbooking, jewelry-making, etc. Anything that you can bring with you and do at a table or while sitting in a chair is welcome!

I will provide coffee, tea, water, and light snacks. There is no fee for this event, but if you can donate a dollar or two to thank Midsummer Fairies for allowing us to use this space, that would be appreciated!

Please feel free to share this event with anyone who you think might be interested!

#### Council Monitoring Bankruptcy

Leona Valley Town Council has contacted the attorney who assisted them with their lawsuit against Ritter Ranch in the early 1990s to see if their settlement agreement is in jeopardy.

The question arose after the recent bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers, which financed the development of Ritter Ranch by the property's most recent owner, SunCal Properties.

When Lehman Brothers filed what has been termed "the biggest bankruptcy in history," their proposed bankruptcy settlement included taking possession of Ritter Ranch. If this were to be approved, it could nullify the settlement agreement now in place between Leona Valley Town Council and Ritter Ranch.

The settlement agreement addresses such issues as lighting along Elizabeth Lake Road, among other things.

An update on this matter will be given at the next meeting

of the town council.

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# **The Art Page**

Todd Cooper Art Editor state of the ART in our community

# LVAG 8th Annual Juried Art Exhibition

The Lakes & Valleys Art Guild is pleased to announce its 8th annual juried art exhibition.

Artists are allowed up to two entries, in any medium. Two dimensional art must be suitably framed and wired for hanging. No sawtooth hangers. Pastel, pencil, charcoal and watercolors must be framed and mounted under glass or plexiglas.

The exhibition is open to artists living in the greater Lakes & Valleys, Antelope Valley, Santa Clarita and Kern County.

COYOTE

All work must be original in concept and subject. Copies of another artist's work will not be accepted. All art must have been produced after January 2009. Previously viewed work will be accepted.

If submitted art is for sale, a price must be entered on the entry form. LVAG will retain a commission of 25% of the listed price. Artwork without a price will be marked "NFS" (Not For Sale).

Entry fees: \$10 for one entry or \$15 for two entries. Limit of 2 entries per artist. Entry fees are non-refundable.

Drop off: Saturday, Nov. 12th and Sunday, Nov. 13th, at the LVAG gallery.

Show reception: Saturday, November 19th, 1 to 4 pm.

Awards presentation: Saturday, November 19th, 3 pm.

The show will close on Sunday, December 11th. Art may be picked up on Sunday, December 11th between 10 am and 4 pm. Artwork NOT picked up on December 11, 2011 will be held and stored for 30 days. After that time, if the art has not been claimed, it will become the property of LVAG and disposed of as seen fit.

Entry forms can be picked up at Lakes & Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Road, Lake Hughes, CA 93532, or use the forms printed at right. Tape one entry form on each piece, on the back, upper right corner.

# Moon Madness at LVAG

The Lakes and Valleys Art
Guild will hold their annual
yard sale at the Gallery at
43751 Lake Hughes Road in
Lake Hughes from 10 am to
3 pm on Saturday, November
12, 2011.

The sale will not only have items contributed by its many members, but will feature specially-created moon-themed art donated by guild artists and priced to be affordable for beginning collectors.

Soft drinks, water, coffee and moon pies will be available, as well.

The Guild is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sup-

ENTRY #1

| TITLE\_\_\_\_\_\_
| MEDIUM\_\_\_\_\_\_
| ARTIST\_\_\_\_\_\_
| ADDRESS\_\_\_\_\_\_
| PHONE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
| PRICE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
| (optional)
| L - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - |
| ENTRY #2

MEDIUM\_\_\_\_\_ARTIST\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE\_\_\_\_

PRICE\_\_\_\_\_(optional)

porting young artists and art programs in the Lake Hughes, Lake Elizabeth, Leona Valley and Antelope Valley areas, and providing a place for local artists to display their art.

TITLE

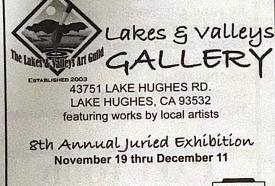
ADDRESS

The Gallery is open on weekends from 10am to 5pm.

For more information, please call the gallery during open hours at 661-724-1312, or email the Guild at lakesandvalleysag@gmail.com.



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#### LVAG NOTES

Members: If you have art at the gallery, it is your duty to gallery-sit. Sign up on the calendar in the hallway.

LVAG logo shirts, hats, etc available at www.zazzle.com/TheCoyoteStudios/LVAG
The next LVAG general meeting will be Sunday November 27, 2011, 2pm, at the Lakes &
Valleys Gallery, 43751 Lake Hughes Rd, Lake Hughes.

# Proposed Solar / Wind Project Moving Forward

Element Power, which has proposed a combination wind turbine / solar farm on Healy Ranch in Fairmont, is talking about giving millions of dollars in mitigation money to affected communities if the project is approved.

According to project liaison Sean Ponso, who represented Element Power at the October meeting of the Neenach Town council, the mitigation money could go into a community fund that could be used for the benefit of all the areas affected by the project.

"We want to set the standard for other companies," said Ponso, who told attendees that the company would hire 30 full-time employees.

The project is called the Wildflower Green Energy Farm; the proposed project site, Healy Ranch, has been leased with an option to buy if the project is approved.

Element Power has recommended three different plans consisting of both wind turbines and solar panels, depending on what can be worked out with local communities.

One of the concerns with this project is its close proximity to the Antelope Valley California Poppy Reserve and the effect the turbines will have on the local landscape. Proposed Plan 1 calls for 60 wind turbines of 491 feet each (ground to top of blade). Ponso said the turbines would be a minimum of 1/4 mile apart; they would be partially visible from Elizabeth Lake. According to Ponso, the taller turbines would turn more slowly than shorter ones, therefore killing less birds.

Plan 2 calls for 120 smaller turbines with some solar pan-

Plan 3 calls for solar panels only. Which plan would be used has yet to be determined.

According to Neenach Town Council President Richard Skaggs, Element has agreed not to tear down Shea Castle, which is on the land it will acquire. Skaggs said many jobs would be lost by the movie industry if we were to lose the landmark castle.

As always, residents attending the meeting were concerned about the flashing red lights required by the FAA on the turbines. Ponso said his company is looking into radar technology, wherein lights would only come on if there were a plane in the vicinity. He said that ultimately the decision about the number, location and type of lights to be used would come from the FAA.

See map at right.

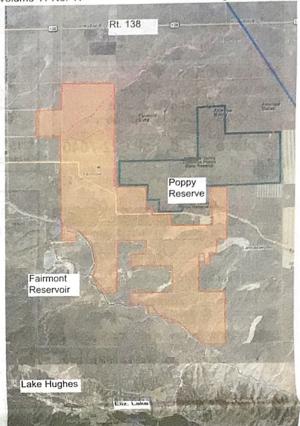
The reddish purple dashed line is SEA 57

(Antelope/Fairmont Buttes). The purple dashed line is SEA 58 (Portal Ridge/Liebre Mountain)

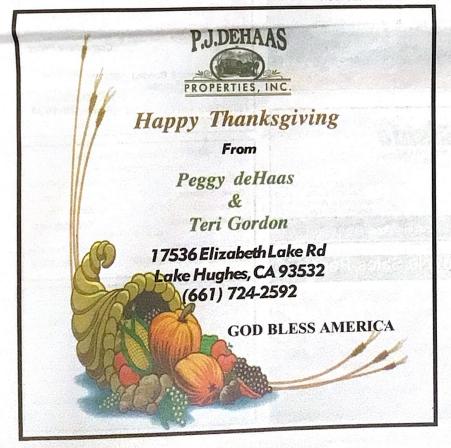
The green dashed line is a portion of SEA 60 (Joshua Tree Woodland).

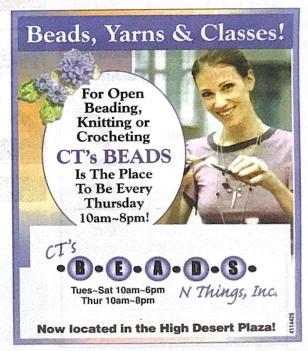
The green line at the bottom is the boundary of the Angeles National Forest.

Project No. R2010-00256, RCUPT201000121



Map from Friends of Antelope Valley Open Space website. http://www.avopenspace.org/html/element\_pwr.shtml





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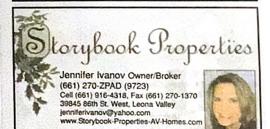
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#### Lake Honorary Mayor Scores a Hat Trick!

Freshman at Paraclete High School finishes Lake Hughes Half Marathon, completes The Painted Turtle Camp Bike Challenge Ride and reaches the summit of Mt. Whitney!

In sport, a hat trick is the achievement of a positive feat three times during a game. The "three is a charm" accomplishments by Chloe Koslo were finishing the inaugural Leona Valley Trails Race half marathon in Lake Hughes on the Pacific Crest Trail on October 8, raising money for The Painted Turtle Camp by riding in the Bike Challenge on September 10 and hiking to the summit of Mt. Whitney on August 6.

Weather conditions were perfect for all three events. The best part of Mt. Whitney for "Mayor" Chloe was getting to the top and seeing the stone hut at 14,497 feet, the tallest point in the contiguous United States. The other highlight was finishing the 22 miles and getting back to Whitney Portal, elevation 8,000 feet.

Chloe Koslo, local Lake Hughesian, at 14 years old raised \$2,570.50 for her community. She is the youngest ever honorary mayor of The Lakes Community and will serve until the next 49er Day on Saturday July 28, 2012. Chloe loves her hometown where "Nature is your Neighbor," and is inspired by the mountains and by Father Tom Baker of Sacred Heart Church, an Ironman triathlete, who reached the summit of Mt. Whitney many

## WEATHER OR NOT?

Weather data for Elizabeth Lake area (Elevation 3450 ft.) By Tom Kaucher September 2011

#### Temperature

Low- 48° on 9-18 High- 100° on 9-7 Average High -89.5° Average Low - 55.7° Average Temperature-72.6°

Lowest High- 77° on 9-16 Highest Low- 66° on 9-30

#### Precipitation

Precipitation-0.07" (0.29" below average, 0.5" above last year) Seasonal Precipitation (7-1-11 to 9-30-11) - 0.07" (0.50" Below Average, 0.05 above last year)

#### **Outlook for November 2011**

Fall is in full swing in November and brings a good possibility of strong storms with measurable amounts of snowfall. The temperatures really drop during the month. Overnight lows will range from the low 20s to low 40s. The daytime highs will range from the low 50s to high 60s.

#### **November Averages and Records**

Temperature High- 89° in 1999 Average High-61.1°

Low- 19° in 2004 Average Low-36.6°

Average Temperature-48.8°

Precipitation

Average Precipitation- 1.55" 2010 Precipitation- 2.93"

Greatest Precipitation- 7.13" in 1982 Average Snowfall- 0.4" 2010 Snowfall- 0.3"

Greatest Snowfall- 7.0" in 1981

Did you know? On October 6, 2006, 1.81" of rain was measured in 30 minutes. A flash flood raged through several homes, depositing appliances and furniture in the streets. Streets were left covered with mud and boulders.

#### In Loving Memory: Annetta Pritchard

July 15, 1928 - October 7, 2011

Born Annetta Jean Simons. daughter of John Charles and Daysie Thelma Simons, she was born 20 minutes before her twin sister, Loretta Ruth, who survives her. The girls were born in Venice, California, so it seems only fitting that Annetta loved the beach so very much.

Annetta is survived by Robert Pritchard, her loving husband of 64 years - as of the day of her death. (It seems so symbolic that the circle of their lives together would begin and end on that very same date.)



Annetta is also survived by their four children: Frank, Valerie, Ronald and Bob. She was a proud grandmother of ten: five boys and five girls, and a great-grandmother of nine: five boys and four girls.

Annetta was an artist. She loved to paint, and has left behind many works of art, along with many different types of greeting cards that she painted over the years. She was also very "crafty," and made many quilts and lots of different knitted items that she made for her grandchildren.

Annetta was truly loved, and will forever be missed. Until we meet again, Mom, I Love You!

# Mathison Preschool Helps Child with Special Needs

By Los Angeles Universal Preschool

Parents of children with developmental challenges are often faced with many questions and uncertainty about their child's future due to a lack of information or support.

That was the case for Antelope Valley resident Jessica Leavens, who says she knows firsthand what it's like to be unprepared. Her daughter, Brea, has Down Syndrome, and from the moment of Brea's birth, Leavens says she was filled with fear.

"As a family, we didn't know anything about Down Syndrome, and we were so scared for what the doctors perceived as the dim future of our daughter," said Leavens. "But she excelled wherever she went!'

Down Syndrome is a condition in which extra genetic material causes delays in the way a child develops, both mentally and physically, and it affects about one in every 800 babies.

Leavens said getting their daughter the help she needed early on with therapy, along with enrolling her in preschool, was critical to Brea's growth.

This past year, Brea attended the Mathison Family Child Care Preschool in Elizabeth Lake, and teacher Deena Benz said Brea made great strides in her developmental skills during her time in preschool.

"She was able to recognize and say her name and everyone else's in the class," said Benz. "Brea can also recognize every letter of the alphabet and most colors."

Leavens said her daughter thrived during her time at Mathison Preschool.

"She is improving with her speech and made wonderful friends," Leavens said. "She loved her teachers, and we were very pleased with her time there."

Similarly, Benz loved her time spent with Brea. "It was a privilege to be Brea's teacher, "she said. "She is special because she sees the world differently, and is very lovable and funny."

Leavens is excited about the opportunities that lay ahead for her daughter. "I really am thankful for the efforts made by the faculty at Mathison Family Child Care," she said. "Now, I only see incredible things for our Brea. Her continued growth, intelligence, sweetness and love have continued to inspire us all!"

To find a high quality preschool program that is free or low-cost in your neighborhood, please visit www.laup.net or call (866) 675-5400.



In Loving Memory: Pat Mosier Sept 21, 1933 - Oct 11, 2011

Pat Mosier, long-time Lake Hughes resident, passed away in the early morning hours of October 11 after several years of battling cancer.

Pat Mosier was my neighbor and my friend. Up until just last week, I was convinced that her stubborn nature might beat the illness that had overtaken her.

Anyone who knew Pat would immediately sense her independent and hardheaded views on life, and her approach with the cancer that eventually killed her was no different. She never really believed that she had cancer. She assumed she

had something else, something curable in time.

Our recent conversations would mostly deal with the onset of winter, collecting enough wood to last until next Spring, and how we both loved the warm days of Fall. If she was ever worried or confused about her illness, it never showed. Only two weeks ago she was driving her power chair all over the neighborhood, playfully chasing her dog Sissy. Three weeks ago she drove herself to the post office for the last time to check

When I first met Pat in the late 1980s, I was convinced she was a modern-day Annie Oakley. She shot many rattlesnakes for me, most on the first try, and a few even after having been at Lucky's.

I was surprised to find that she loved classical music, and had at one time played the accordion. She would have been surprised to know that when my children were little we referred to her as "Pat the Bunny." Having not had any children, she wouldn't have known about this well known children's book.

She did, however, have many beloved dogs that she referred to as her "kids." Her many adopted children, in the form of Dobermans, German Shepherds, and mixed breeds, were the loves of her life. Sissy, whom she leaves behind, was her last "kid."

Pat will be greatly missed by her friends, neighbors and her kid, Sissy.

Elisabeth Chatfelter

Some of Pat's other friends submitted these "thoughts and letters to a dear friend, neighbor and a Lake Hughes icon."

Patricia "Pat" Mosier (aka: Annie Oakley) was my "weather alert" on stormy days. She would call me at the office in SCV so I could head up the hill before it got too bad. Even though our rainstorm on 10/5 wasn't a big one, Pat called me with a report one last time. - Debbie Gottas

Pat, You told me if there is anything after this earth, you will let me know. I will stay alert and vigilant. This mountain is a little less bright, because you're light is no longer here. Have a good trip! We'll all miss you lady. - Your friend, Nancy

See Pat Mosier, page 17

#### Solar Project Proposed at 110th

Yet another solar project has been proposed for the west Antelope Valley, this one at the intersection of 110th Street West and Avenue I. According to Karen Bryan, who attended the presentation by Fotowatio Renewable Ventures, Inc. on Sept. 29, the questions raised by meeting attendees were in regards to impacts on wildlife, destruction of farmland, and visual blight.

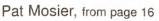
In addition, concern was expressed about the impact to local roads if two acre-feet of water are hauled to the site each year to clean the panels and reduce the dust. Two acre-feet is roughly equivalent to the yearly water use of six single-family homes.

Company representatives advised the group that the project will have no permanent staff at the site and will be monitored from an off-site location.

Although 150 to 200 construction jobs will be created by the project, none will be permanent.

Project management is conducting biological surveys and technical studies as mandated by the California Environmental Quality Act.

For more information, contact antelope.solar@frv.com



Pat was a caring, sharing friend. She was always there for her friends, and the animals. We miss her, and she will be in our memories forever. Pat left a little piece of herself, with each and everyone of us, and we'll carry that piece until we see her again. - From Chervl and Butch Leppi

Pat Mosier not only was she my longtime friend. Pat was a friend to many in the community. Pat's love for animals was well known. During the struggle she had with cancer, her main concern was not herself. It was that her dog Sissy has a good home. We will miss her. Shannon Ward

I first met Pat at mutual friend's wedding. I was 17 years old at the time and Pat ask me out to dinner.

When she came to pick me up, she saw that my dogs and I were living in a terrible situation. She immediately took it upon herself to move the dogs and me into a beautiful place. We became extremely closer from that point on.

Her love for animals and the people she allowed into her life became her forever friends. My love for her cannot be measured.

As a neighbor, Pat and I became friends through our love and appreciation of animals. One incident where her dog Bandit was tangled up, I found Pat at Lucky Days and we managed to get the dog free. Later on, she had the opportunity to help reciprocate the same when my cat was stuck in a tree, despite the scratches that she endured. She will be missed.

I use to ride Shadow, my dog, on the front of my motorcycle and go over bumps to help relieve some of her frustrations when she was in heat. One day Pat asked me about it and I told her the story. Shortly after, Pat Mosier, Rosie Conway, Pat West and Babs helped to pay for her to be fixed. - Love forever, Craig Whitman

Pat was known for being a proud fisherman and was always pleased when she outdid her fellow anglers. While a beer was always the reward for the biggest and best fish, it was the shear joy and thrill of the catch she loved more.

I will always remember her coming into Lucky Days and calling me "Baby Doll" and I would call her "Patty Mae." While I lost my life partner, Nikki Kemp, a few years ago, I will always remember how dear and loyal a friend she was to both of us. - Sheri Hopkins and Nikki Kemp (who is hanging out with her right now)

Thanks 4 the truck. - Love Mike Casey

From the many, people who will miss this colorful, caring character, "You will truly be missed."

Peggy and Jeff deHass Barbara and Ronald Sichmeller

Terri Gordon, Bud
Tracy Burns, Karen Baldwin
Kimberley and Jim Garcia
Kitty Farr, Danny Conway
Mike Casey
Edith and Blair Welling
Tom and Rose Smart
Donna Sharpe
Jeannette Marshall
Keith and Jonna Rusnak
"Lucky" Marvel

From her fishing buddies, The Olesh brothers Bruce, Amy, Sheri Hopkins and Nikki Kemp

Tom Welling, Pat West and many more not mentioned.

The Old Girls from Lucky Days that she played cards, darts, gossiped and bitched with, Dottie Bear, Pat West, Rosie Smart, Shannon Ward

A Poem from Penny Love is a Choice Love is a choice. Love is stepping out of your comfort zone, For the future is in the moment. Life could be a bed of roses, If it wasn't for all the little pricks along the way. It's just what life's about ... Fun, pleasure, and pain. It's knowing that someone cares It's about finding faults and complaining a lot. It's the feeling of security that you've got.

There is a shadow within all of us.
It's up to us to embrace life and

death.

And have the courage and strength to be all that we can be. Letting go of the past, moves us forward to a new beginning. May your new beginning, be as special as your life was here on earth.

You will be remembered and loved by the animals that you've helped and the friends that you've touched.

Be at peace my dear friend "Pat" Mosier.

Love, Mary "Penny" Shelton Thank you for allowing me to help you with your journey to the end with you at home.



## Runners Take Part in Inaugural Leona Valley Trail Race

The inaugural Leona Valley Trails
Race on October 8 had 156 runners finish their respective runs and almost as
many volunteers, supporters, family
and friends in attendance.

Special thanks to Merrie Profitt and her merry band of helpers: Sharon and Bud Lehner, Linda and Tom Joynt, Carol Earle, Theresa Greene, Judy Gordon and many more in the Lakes Community Center kitchen for a delicious dinner Friday night and equally fantastic lunch on Saturday October 8.

One could run the 5K, 10K, half marathon or full marathon. The shirts were really amazing and the finisher medals and ribbons were awesome too.

For Lakes Honorary Mayor Chloe Koslo it was her first half marathon. She was a kind "Trail Angel" and waited for her mom at the halfway point near the Lake Hughes Road aid station. Her time would have been much faster, but it was fun talking with fellow runners and cheering for them. The camaraderie and encouragement from everyone was absolutely phenomenal.

A great shout out to Keira Henninger, race director, and Jesse Haynes and all the volunteers. Much appreciation and gratitude for everything!

Thirty runners completed the 5K, 34 runners completed the 10K, 55 runners completed the half marathon of more than 13 miles and 37 runners finished the full 26.2-mile marathon route.

Local residents Kyra Sundance and Frank Toothaker completed the full marathon, Allaire and Chloe Koslo, the half marathon, Donna Carroll, Lynn Taflinger, the 10K and Brad Taflinger, the 5KI

Ricardo Ramirez won the marathon with a time of three hours 41 minutes and 33 seconds. Michelle Barton was the top female marathoner with a fast winning time of four hours, three minutes and 49 seconds! Way to go!

Join in next year and enjoy our beautiful trails.

# 4-H Barbecue Fun for the Whole Family

By Christy Adams, contributing writer

Our local 4-H held a wonderful barbecue and auction at the Leona Valley Community Center in September.

Mouth watering, deep pit barbecued lamb, pork and turkey were enjoyed by guests and served by our 4-H group, as well as delicious sides of beans, salads, corn and more.

After the meal, awards were given for the livestock sold and buyers were thanked.

Lastly, the exciting auction of donated items, including cozy throws, cakes and cake plates, was a fine ending to the day. Thank you all who participated and supported our local 4-H group.

#### Trespassing a Problem at Lake

Elizabeth Lake residents are still seeking a solution to the influx of trespassers on the south side of the lake. Residents have brought the problem to the Lakes Town Council at each of the past three meetings in the hope that something can be done about the littering, illegal fishing and unpermitted campfires on the private side of the lake.

Residents believe that these transgressions are mainly the result of antelope Valley residents gaining illegal access to the property through a broken fence on Sandrock.

The property in question is owned by Mitch simon, a developer, who does not live in the area, but owns the south side of the lake and the adjacent land.

The council suggested, at its October 1 meeting, that residents write individual letters to Simon. The council said that if no results were obtained, residents might return to the council for assistance.

#### Police Blotter

On Sept. 9, 500 pounds of marijuana were recovered by the Sheriff's Marijuana Eradication Team in the Sawmill Canyon area with three Mexican Nationals in custody. A rollback to the suspects homes in the San Fernando Valley, with a search warrant, yielded more finished product and cash.

# Big Kids' Book Corner: Okay For Now by Gary D. Schmidt

Reviewed by Dawn Baertlein

Wow! Writers talk a lot about the importance of voice. Voice is not only how a character or narrator speaks, but everything about him that makes him unique. What he says and how he says it. What he would never say in a million years. Where he goes and wouldn't go, what he does and would rather die than be caught doing.

Doug Swelteck, the main character telling his story in *Okay For Now*, is a junior high school kid with Voice! He's tough, but life is tough on him. He lives in poverty with an abusive dad, a jerk for a big brother, and another brother off fighting in Vietnam. His mom is kind and caring but beaten down by her situation.

See Big Kids' Books, page 23

# Dave Says

Dear Dave,

How do you feel about online trading for building a stock portfolio? Assuming that someone has done their homework on which stocks to buy, is there anything else to know about do-it-yourself trading?

Kevin Dear Kevin,

There's one very important thing to know - don't do it! This kind of thing is one rung below day trading on the ladder of stu-

Here's the problem. When most people talk about "doing their homework" on single stocks they're just barely skimming the surface. And most of the time this involves just talking to their broke friends.

There's no way you and your golfing buddy are going to dig up and decipher the kind of solid, reliable information you'll need to be successful at this kind of thing.

I'd much rather go with a mutual fund that's spent millions of dollars analyzing companies and doing real research. What you're talking about is a million times riskier than using good growth stock mutual funds selected by professionals - with 90 to 100 different stocks.

-Dave

Dear Dave.

Right now our debt is keeping us from investing. Do you recommend making investments with a home equity line of credit?

Paul

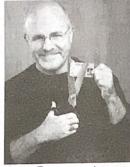
Dear Paul,

Let me answer this very, very carefully. No!

You don't borrow on your home, Paul. You never want to put something as precious and important as your home in jeopardy just for the sake of invest-

Follow the Baby Steps. First, get \$1,000 in the bank to start your emergency fund. Second, pay off all debts from smallest to largest - except for your house - using the debt snowball. This will lead you to Baby Step Three, which is fully funding your emergency fund with three to six months of expens-

Once you've done all this you're ready for Baby Step



November 1, 2011

Dave Ramsey cuts up a credit card.

Four, which is investing in Roth IRAs and other pre-tax retirement.

When you're debt-free except for your house, you'll find investing is easy because you've freed up your most important wealth building tool - your income!

-Dave Dear Dave.

I live in New York, and even though I follow your advice and live on a budget, it's really hard to save up for a down payment on a house. My family in South Carolina property down there, fix it up and flip it to get the money I need. Does this sound like a good plan to you?

Adrian Dear Adrian,

I wouldn't do it. Fixing and flipping properties is a very hands-on business, and trying to do it from another state could be a nightmare - especially with the weirdness in today's economy.

When you take on this kind of work you need to oversee what's happening every step of the way. You're also working out the details, and keeping an eye on the crew to make sure they're doing things right. Besides, you can't just walk up to a house, buy it, and expect to get a great deal.

Professionals who flip houses for a living often look at 100 or more properties to buy just one. It's not an easy way to make money, and it's definitely not something to consider doing from a dis-

Just keep on working the budget and save as much as you can. You might even

consider getting a part-time job for a while to bring in some extra cash. But waiting and saving up is a lot smarter plan than fixing and flipping houses 900 miles away!

-Dave

Dear Dave,

My girlfriend and I recently got engaged, and our parents are contributing financially to the wedding. We've noticed that both sets of parents are pressing their ideas of what they'd like the wedding to be like, who to invite and who to include in the wedding party. I know in the end it's our call, but traditionally do parents have some kind of say if they contribute money to help pay for the wedding?

Chris

Dear Chris,

No. Traditionally, they take a say. And traditionally they're a pain in the behind! But they only interfere because they're so excited and love you so much. They want to be part of the happiness and for everything to be perfect.

As soon as they deliver a little girl, lots of mothers start planning their daughter's wedding. They've had several years to dream and form an opinion on this, and your fiancé's mom has probably been doing it, too.

Since this is such an emotional event, I think you two need to have some reasonable boundaries. But you also should keep in mind that your parents are just as excited - if not more - than you guys are.

When you come to a disagreement tell them firmly, but gently, that you love them, but you're going to do things your way. If they're footing part of the bill they'd have the right to decide not to pay for something, but unless there's some moral issue involved they probably won't act badly.

I think if you just step back and take a breath you'll realize what a big deal this is to everyone involved. Chances are you'll also be able to come up with some creative ways to allow them to participate without your wedding losing its identity.

My biggest suggestion to you is to make sure that you're the buffer between your fiancé and the parents. Don't let anyone push her around, and do everything you can to make sure your wedding is what you both want it to be!

-Dave

\* For more financial help please visit daveramsey.com.

# One arrested in parole sweep in Lakes & Valleys

By Norm Judd, senior staff writer

Probation: Conditional release of a convicted person from custody. For some it's a new start leading to a better life. Others relapse into the kind of conduct that led to imprisonment in the first place.

Probationers must agree to supervision by parole, probation and law enforcement officers who periodically check for compliance. This protects the public and keep subjects on the right track.

On October 20, 2011, The Mountain Yodeler rode with Resident Deputy Bob Schneider and Deputy Dennis Miller, who led a team, including Probation Officer Alva George on a compliance sweep of The Lakes and Valleys. Unannounced inspections were conducted at the homes of 10 subjects, four in Lake Hughes, three in Green Valley, two in Elizabeth Lake and one in Leona Valley.

Supervising Sergeant Allan Young explained, "We will interview subjects to assure that they are doing what is expected and that their living conditions are appropriate. Today we have no warrants to serve and we will only make arrests if we find sufficient violations of their probation.

Deputies were briefed at each stop, deploying cautiously prior to knocking and identifying themselves. After entering they checked for firearms, drugs, or any other evidence of violations

Probationer Robert McCall, 44, was arrested without incident at his Lake Hughes home for "possession of meth and a loaded .45 cal. handgun," according to deputies. McCall was booked at Palmdale Station and was arraigned on October 23, 2011 at Antonovich Courthouse in Palmdale.

At the conclusion of the sweep, Deputy Schneider commented, "The results indicated that most are apparently doing okay. One was in college and several were at work."

Parole and probation sweeps are yet another way our sheriffs provide for our safety and quality of life.

#### THE MOUNTAIN YODELER

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# Real Estate Market Boom or Bust

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD SALES SINCE JUNE 2011

By Linda Marcella Berg, Contributing Writer

I thought you might be interested in seeing how our sales activity has fared in our own neighborhoods between June 1 and October 14th of this year. I've given a breakdown of the total number of sold homes, plus the lowest price and the highest price sold.

These include only the sales reported on the Greater Antelope Valley Association of Realtors (GAVAR), and Southland Regional (TEMPO), which is the larger multiple listing service down below.

This may not be an overly impressive statistic, but as long as the sales keep posting consistently, it's a healthy sign. Leona Valley, in particular, has broken through the drudgery-trend of the low price tags with some freshnew higher sales prices.

Green Valley sold 4 total with a range of \$80,000 to \$204,000.

Elizabeth Lake sold 6 total with a range of \$41,000 to \$173,000.

Lake Hughes sold 9 total with a range of \$42,000 to \$320,000.

Leona Valley sold 9 total with a range of \$194,900 to \$828,000.

How did we compare with 2010 during the same months? Overall, there were a few more sales in 2010, but a lower top sales price. So it appears the demand for upper-scale homes for our individual neighborhoods is increasing a little.

Last year's tax credit definitely helped to boost sales, and this year we are feeling the lack thereof. This, combined with joblessness, consumer pessimism about the future and the vast number of homes that remain "underwater" or valued less than the debt on the property, are keeping potential purchasers out of the market.

Despite historically low interest rates, the stricter qualifications to obtain a loan are also excluding many would-be homeowners. The pendulum of extremism has swung from liberal and careless loan-giving to the opposite side with overly scrutinizing hoop-jumping qualifications combined with a tomb of information and traceability required that would test the patience and tolerance of any normal (or ab-normal) individual.

Bargain hunters and investors are the dominant purchasers in the \$300,000 and below category, according to DataQuick, a San Diego real estate information firm. Buyers who paid all cash made up 28.5% of sales in Southern California last month, paying a median price of \$210,000. Of those paying cash, 52.9% were investors or second-home buyers, according to DataQuick.

Despite the hype, half of mortgage holders hae 25% equity in U.S.

Within the U.S., nearly half of all homeowners with a mortgage have at least 25% equity in their properties, and about a quarter of homeowners with mortgages have more than 50% equity, a new study by Corelogic shows.

CoreLogic maintains the largest database on home loans – 42 million active accounts, and more than 80% of all existing mortgages – with information supplied regularly by lenders and servicers.

At the other end of the spectrum, 22.5% of owners are in negative equity positions, burdened with houses worth less than their mortgage balances.

# States with the most equity

Where are all these equity-wealthy people living, anyway? Two states top the list - New York, where 48.8% of owners have greater than 50% equity positions, and Hawaii with 43.7% equity positions. Connecticut, Massachusetts,

Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and New Jersey all have equity positions far above the national average.

Our lovely California is described as more of "barbell state" in which above average numbers of owners holding 50% equity or more are typically in or near coastal cities, combined with large numbers of owners in the deep negative equity, clustered in the interior counties and the Central Valley.

The states which hold the

most negative equity positions? Just 7.5% of Nevada owners have equity 50% or greater. At the other extreme, 30% have mortgage debt that is 50% or more than their property values. Almost 58% of all Nevada owners are in negative equity positions, according to the CoreLogic data.

Arizona has the second worst situation on negative equity with 49% of owners underwater, followed by Florida with 45%.

Feeling better now? I'm glad I could cheer you up!

Wishing you all a most warm and treasured Thanksgiving, and a wonderful Holiday Season, regardless of your equity position.

Linda Marcella Berg, Realtor

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# The Way I See It

Life - A Death Sentence

An opinion by Norm Judd

Every physical life will end in death! Timing is a mystery except when humans intervene. The death penalty (DP) is one of God's ways of protecting his children and he imposed upon governments this grim task! About 80% of Americans recognize the need to rid society of the likes of Troy Davis, Ted Bundy, and Richard Ramirez.

In my opinion Kathleen Parker's Washington Post article opposing the death penalty is terribly wrong. It is available online.

Parker says she has "matured" beyond her former belief in the Old Testament ideal, an eye for an eye. After her flip-flop she deems the DP "cold blooded, barbaric and an abomination." She wants the "guillotine" retired in hopes of evolving to a "higher level of humanity."

Guillotine? Shocking verbiage since California uses painless injections previously reserved for our beloved pets! Be real Kathleen!

She sympathetically describes Georgia's execution of Troy Davis as he continued to deny murdering a police officer. His conviction was affirmed at every possible level before he "blinked a few times, yawned and went to sleep." How cruel was that?

Ms. Parker wanted Davis

spared because witnesses at his 1991 trial have recanted parts of their testimony. Who knows why? Twenty years allows time for DP critics to muddy the waters! Maybe those wits also "matured" beyond God, who dictated death even for adultery and homosexuality.

Many anguish during executions as if they personally were injecting the merciful life-ending fluids, whimpering for the condemned rather than victims who truly suffered.

Most opponents say life sentences are cheaper and prevent mistakes. Others argue that DP has "proven" not to be a deterent. How can a negative be proven? Some who kill in the heat of passion may not fear punishment, but I firmly believe many are deterred. Would you be?

The DP would be more effective if executions were sure and swift. But in California only 1 in 100 is executed, at about age 70. The others die of old age, strangulation, or beatings at the hands of other killers. Ironic isn't it? So in practice the DP is a life sentence, a long one ending often in violent death!

Vengeance, however sweet, is not a factor in my support of capital punishment. But extermination of vile killers, and protection of innocent folks are paramount factors. Ted Bundy admitted to more than 30 killings, hinting on the eve of his

execution that the actual total was more than 100. Would sparing him have raised us to a "higher level of humanity?"

God imposes physical death on everyone with a promise of eternal life. He told us in both testaments to protect ourselves from those who forfeit the right to live. We chose trial by our peers and rare mistakes will occur but new forensics like DNA testing may reduce those.

Some critics of DP are without context until their own loved ones are beaten, raped or murdered. The callous Connecticut home invasion murders of Dr. William Petit's wife and t2 daughters might change their minds. Those girls were tied to their beds and burned to death by two sociopaths. By this printing perhaps both will be sent to death row.

Why should we confine and care for 500 killers and allow their legal manipulations while their victims' families are taxed for all that and deprived of closure? Capital punishment would be more effective if the ACLU and "bleeding hearts" stayed out of the process. Here's proof that DP works. No executed killer has ever killed again! That's good, "The Way!

#### Letter to the editor

#### Renewable green energy not so green Continued from Oct. Yodeler.

People like me, who suffer from some degree of motion sickness, are particularly susceptible to Wind Turbine Syndrome and my symptoms described above are some of the same symptoms people suffer from, due to Wind Turbine Syndrome. There are more symptoms, and they are all, to some degree, debilitating.

How can anyone live in their home under such conditions and why should any corporation be able to inflict this misery on anyone in their own home, in the name of profit?

To deny the existence of Wind Turbine Syndrome is unconscionable. More and more information is surfacing around the world about this Syndrome. Most of the information is coming from doctors who treat the victims. This is particularly true in Australia where more and more calls for a moratorium on the erection of wind turbines is gaining momentum.

What needs to be done is a serious study of the people who have come down with some symptoms after wind turbines have come into their lives and actually do real research to determine what is happening and what the real dangers are. Then wind turbines need to be built in the proper places where they can do little or no real damage.

Wind energy certainly must have its place in the electricity producing mix but its environmental impacts make it necessary to erect these towering spinning, hacking, vibrating, noise-making blades somewhere where the habitat has little or no wildlife and no human life within a yet-to-be determined range.

I suspect such safe areas would put these wind turbine electric producing facilities further away from the consumers and so cost more.

They certainly cannot continue to be constructed along ridgetines where raptors and vultures dwell as well as other birds and life forms.

Certainly not within any proximity to humans. The greater the quantity of towers the further away they should be.

The Governor of California, Jerry Brown, recently stated that more photo voltaic panels need to be erected on rooftops within cities. More local, diversified, production of renewable electricity would help to reduce the construction of extensive, and expensive, high tension lines that travel long distances, while losing electricity in the journey.

Utility scale electrical production is a mindset based on concentrated income where, especially those at the top, can reap massive fortunes. Local, diversified electrical production would, instead, depend upon the existence of many, smaller companies.

The advantages of such local production to the community are many: less dependency on the grid, less dependency of electrical production elsewhere. Remember how Enron gamed the system and walked away with a huge amount of California cash?

Since cities already have many covered areas, adding solar over those areas, such as buildings, parking lots, roads, bridges, overpasses, and the like, would provide relief to the environment elsewhere, and would reduce the need for building wind turbine factories on wildlife ridgelines.

We need factual, realistic long-range goals, that favor the society overall and protects the environment. We cannot continue to go down the path of environmental destruction for the sake of making money, especially concentrated money in the hands of the few.

The Los Angeles County Regional Planning Department is supposed to base its decisions on all elements, including environmental, ecological and habitat.

Bob Kerekes Antelope Acres

# Annual Turkey Dinner Planned

By Lu Bole, staff writer

The first Sunday in November is always a big day for all members of the Little Mission on the Hill, as it is traditionally the day of the Annual Turkey Dinner and Christmas Boutique, and so this year it is going to be on November 6.

For several weeks now, parishioners have been working on advertising, selling raffle tickets, sewing items or baking goodies for the boutique, and purchasing the items and supplies necessary to make this day successful.

Two weeks prior to the dinner, the ladies of the Altar Society give the kitchen a thorough cleaning in preparation for the army of volunteers who will soon be working there.

Other volunteers canvass local businesses and interested parties for donations of the many door prizes to be offered during the five-hour dinner. Baking pies of all kinds will soon be filling many parish homes with mouth-watering aromas, but all will be earmarked "Hands Off! That's for the Turkey Dinner!"

Two days before the Big Day, volunteers will cut vegetables, prepare the turkeys for stuffing and roasting, and start setting up the Boutique in the adjacent Hall.

Saturday morning, November 5, will see a small army of "stuffers," who prepare the 37 turkeys for roasting, and later that day 37 dedicated parishioners arrive to pick up the stuffed, oven-ready turkeys, take them home, and then stay up until 11 pm to put them into ovens to roast during the night, thus making it increasingly difficult to sleep as the wonderful fragrance of roasting turkey fills each

Bright and early Sunday, November 6, the hot, tender and perfectly roasted turkeys will be brought to the church where an assembly-line of volunteers prepare the meat for serving, make gravy, mash potatoes, cook vegetables, and spoon cranberry sauce into individual cups.

The pies will be put on shelves, ready to cut and serve; the door prizes will be arranged, ready for distribution, and final touches will be put on the Boutique.

When time comes for Mass, everyone is eager for the coming dinner, and Father's homily has competition from all the wonderful smells coming from the kitchen. Immediately after Mass, the chairs will be moved out of the way, tables get set up and decorated, and all the last-minute touches will be completed.

Promptly at 1 pm, the first diners arrive, dinners get served up, and the pace never lets up until 5:30 pm, when the final dinner is dished up. Total dinners served last year? 562! Smiles are definitely the order of the day, and no one ever goes away hungry!

Many lucky folks win some very nice door prizes during the dinner, but everyone anxiously awaits the drawing for the three cash prizes for which raffle tickets are now being sold. First prize is \$500; second prize is \$250; and the third prize of \$100 will all be awarded at 6 pm, the end of the dinner. Winners need not be present.

If you have never partaken of this feast before, you're really missing out on a wonderful meal and fun afternoon. Come on over to the Little Mission on the Hill and enjoy yourself, Sunday, November 6, 1 pm to 5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome. (Who knows, it just might become one of your annual traditions!)

### Senior Christmas Dinner Planned

The annual SERTOMA sponsored Senior Christmas Dinner is December 4, 2011, from 1 to 3 pm at Leona Valley Community Center. Join us for food and entertainment and bring your family and friends!

Sertoma donation boxes for canned goods and toys are coming soon.

Call Bev for details at 661 270 9534.

#### Walking Under the Influence

By Norm Judd, senior staff writer According to sheriffs' reports, Raymond Garrett Laux, 21, of Green Valley was seen "stumbling" in the center of Ranch Club Road in Elizabeth Lake by Deputy Dennis Miller at 10:55 a.m. on September 13, 2011.

Concerned for Laux's welfare, Deputy Miller talked to him and determined that he was under the influence of a controlled substance. Laux admitted taking "norcos" and other opiate pills the day before.

Deputy Miller arrested him for 11550 Health & Safety Code and booked him at Palmdale Station where Laux volunteered a urine sample.

#### Thank You, Subscribers

Thank you to the following people, who sent in subscriptions during October in response to our annual subscription campaign: Jack and Suzy Love, LV Anonymous, GV Robert Frerichs, GV Richard and Mary Thomas, LV Richard and Laura Vitalis, LH Martin and Gina Moss, Gorman Donald and Rhonda Kersey, LH Mel and Jennifer Cathcart, EL Sarah Jacobson, Palmdale Art and Susan Juday, QH LaJune Anderson, Lancaster

To subscribe to The Mountain Yodeler, please send your subscription in the amount of \$25 (local), \$35 (out of the area), or \$100 (lifetime) to Mountain Yodeler, P.O. Box 444, Lake Hughes, CA 93532.

Your donations are truly appreciated.

#### Soldier News

By Jan Carlson, staff writer

Another very successful yard sale for the troops has come and gone!!

This year we had more furniture than ever before and it helped a lot with sales.

I want to thank everyone who helped

again this year and thank everyone who donated items to sell. It couldn't be done without a team effort!

Special thanks to Jim Cox, Karin Hill, Suzy Mendez, Kelly Brainard, Jodi Daniels, Hannah Brainard, Amber Miller, Micky Palmer, Val and Bob Herford, Sara Ford, Merrie Profitt, Tom and Linda Joynt, Teddy and crew, Jennifer Cribbs, Sherrie and Tim Zongker, Rick Mahnich, the guys from the Red, White and Blue thrift shop and everyone else who helped set up and pack up things. I know I have missed a name or two, and am sorry if I missed your name.

Also, thank you to everyone who has donated items to be sent to the soldiers! There are boxes ready to go now and more will be mailed next month.

Please keep in mind these soldiers would like to have mail from "home." Anyone can write to any of the soldiers at any time. They do like getting mail!

With the holidays approaching, keep in mind we will send little decorations for the holidays. I can also use unused Christmas or holiday cards to send to the troops so they can send them back to their loved ones.

The weather will be changing there, as it will be here. Start thinking about things to send to keep them warm, such as gloves, neck scarves, hand warmers, and earmuffs.

Waste Management donated two dumpsters again this year for cleanup. I really appreciate their generosity and the help they give us each year. Having the dumpsters onsite helps us all a lot.

Thanks to *The Mountain Yodeler* and *The AV Press* for their coverage and for helping to remind readers of the annual yard sale for the troops.

My sister, Joan Alioto, and her husband came all the way from Floriston, Calif. to help with the yard sale and to shop, too! So with my daughters Jodi and Kelly and my granddaughters Hannah and Amber here, too, it was a family affair this year!

I also want to thank my neighbors for being so understanding and helping again with the sale. Micky Palmer and Tim and Sherrie Zongker let us store sale items in their garages.

Remember our troops every day that you are able to go where you want to and do what you want to without having to worry about the enemy being at your side.

Think about the freedom you take for granted!

Fly your flag every day and be proud to be an American!

#### "Our" Soldiers

SrA Heidi Tuley 332 EMXS/ARMAMENT APO AE 09315-9997

PFC RICHARDSON, JAROD HHC 2/6 TH INF MORTARS CAMP CARVERS 2 BCT 1 AD APO AE 09308

SPC RICHARDSON, JACOB US NIC APO AE 09780

SPC DENISE M. STEVENS 632 ND MAINTENANCE CO CO BADDER IRAQ APO AE 09331

ZACHERY NELSON DCO 6-101 AVN REGT TF SHADOW APO AE 09355

PFC BRANDON MARTIN HHC CO. 526 BSB 2 BCT. 101 ST ABN DIVI-SION FOB WILSON APO AE 09370

SGT JONES, MATTHEW 205TH ASMC APO AE 09375-0531

1st LT. HOUSEL, ANDREW D B TROOP 2-1 CAV 4-2 SBCT APO AE 09378

LCPL JARED S. MILLER ATTN: ANY MARINE 3 D LAR BN C CO. 3 PLT UNIT 41695 FPO AP 96427

SPC JOSHUA CLARK B-BTRY 1-148 FA BA FOB PROSPERITY APO AE 09348

SPC FISH, KATHRYN (MOUTRAY) A CO. 601 ST ASB 1 ID APO, AE 09378

ERIC PEARSON, SFC TASK FORCE AVIATION, 1/376TH APO, AE 09340

PFC. TYLER ODENS L. 200 TH EN CO (MRBC) CAMP LEATHERNECK FPO AE 09372

Christopher Winkler A CO. 45th BSTB FOB Xio Haq APO, AE 09310

# Grandsons make local woman proud

The guys are home now, but not in Leona Valley or Lake Hughes. Their families moved and live in Utah and Oregon.

The guys? Oh. That's James Robert Murray and Brian Gordon Willden.

Jim is the grandson of the late Robert Murray, basketball coach of Antelope Valley College. Jim and Brian are grandsons of Tink Freeman of Lake Hughes and the great grandsons of the late Jim Lott of Leona Valley.

Jim Murray was a member of the Leona Valley Racketteers 4-H Club and attended Hughes-Elizabeth Lakes Union Elementary School.

In a copy of *The Avenger*, a magazine the Navy puts out once a month, Jim was in three pictures on two of the pages. In one of his letters, he said he was on the newest and biggest ship in the world. He didn't mention the name of the ship. I think - from what he said - that's because the ship has to qualify in many area, for a combat systems ship.

He said that they go out to sea for one to three weeks at a time for qualifying and that he just pulled in that day. He didn't say whether the ship in the photo was the one he was on or the one he was talking about.

Jim is in SARS, Swimmers to the Rescue. He is on the left in the photo.

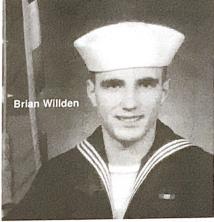
In another letter, Jim said "As the primary rescue swimmer, I've been labeled the ship's super hero." Did Tink's head get big? Oh, yes!

This grandmother can rest easy now because Jim is at home with his family in Utah and he finally got to meet his son, Jayden Robert Murray, for the first time.

Brian Willden, son of the late Steven Warren Willden and Candice Adrianne Freeman Willden, lived at the 4C Ranch of Leona Valley. His brother Steven and sister Kathy attended Lake Hughes

School and were members of the Leona Valley Racketteers 4-H Club.

Being from a very active 4-H family, Brian got to attend most of all the 4-H activities, like the A.V. Fair, fundraisers, the safety poster con-



test, Father's Day breakfast, cake walk and spaghetti dinners, and the Christmas parties.

Mrs. Letha Rackett looked forward to having the rest of the family in 4-H - Brian and his sister Krystal. Mrs. Rackett made the ring pillow for Brian to carry when his mother Candy remarried to a local Lancaster Realtor, Ed Botiller.

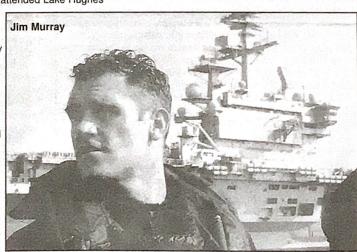
Brian attended Rancho Vista Elementary School. The family moved before Brian could join the Racketteers 4-H Club, so he went into the Boy Scouts of America, first as a Cub Scout, then as a Boy Scout, where he earned awards and merit badges.

After high school, Brian joined the Navy; Brian is a third generation Navy man in his family, following in the footsteps of his grandfather, the late Ernest Gordon Willden, then his father, Steven Warren Willden.

Brian is home now in Medford, Oregon, with his family. He's attending Rogue Valley Community College, where he is taking mechanical engineering classes, to follow in his late father's footsteps as a diesel mechanic.

I'm as proud of my grandsons as other grandmothers are proud of their grandsons. We all look forward to the day when our sons and daughters can all come home.

Tink Freeman Lake Hughes



# The High Desert Organic Gardener

By Robert Kerekes, contributing columnist

Those who have been reading my column for any length of time know that I periodically rail against genetically modified foods. Sometimes the response from such companies, such as the number one genetic modification company, Monsanto, is that we who are against genetic modification of our food supply are anti-science.

In reality, science, which is often repressed by the profiteers, shows the fallacies and the extreme harm being done by such profiteers' products. Monsanto does everything it can to repress science, and it has been very successful in doing so, especially here in the U.S.A., Great Britain and Argentina, where genetically modified soy beans are in full swing.

The European countries have outlawed the sale and production of genetically modified foods entirely. I don't know why the European countries do so much more for their citizens than we do for ours. Perhaps they are not imbued with the fable of rugged individualism.

India is struggling with this problem right now, and has been. Farmers there have been committing suicide at an alarming rate due to the failures of Monsanto seeds, the high costs incurred in the purchase of the seeds, and the pressures of American style industrialized farming. There is a strong uprising in India against Monsanto and a strong drive to keep and maintain, small to medium sized farms.

In this country Monsanto and a couple other leading genetic modifying companies have successfully kept genetically modified foods from being labeled. Their legal reasoning is that by labeling genetically modified foods people will think that the food is not the same; they claim the food is the same. They say that people will not purchase their foods, causing them to lose money.

Loss of profit rules; knowing what we eat does not. Keeping us all in the dark as much as possible seems to be the purpose.

The leading organization combating genetically modified foods generally and Monsanto specifically is the Organic Consumers Association. This organization deals with all things organic, or otherwise. They have taken on the task of putting an initiative on the California ballot to force the labeling of genetically modified foods. Should labeling actually come to our great state then people will be amazed at how much genetically modified foods they are already eating.

Organic Consumers Association is looking for people to train for petition gathering. Go to: www.organicconsumers.org/ or http://labelgmos.org

The Lancaster and Palmdale representative is Blair Caldwell at: blairsgarden@gmail.com. In Rosamond it is Sheree Tompkins at mariacountry@antilecom.net.

My website is undergoing changes. I have removed all past columns and co-op sections. I will be expanding my photograph section and will include some written information. During this past year, while teaching classes here at my place I produced some handouts. The last handout was the longest and had a number of photographs in it. I will be putting these, and more, with information, for sale at my web site.

I was asked if I would travel to an area to teach a class. Sounds interesting to me. Anyone wanting to put a group together, I will travel for a fee, regardless of the group size.

I will have a limited quantity of seeds for sale and will produce plants for those who make an order with a prepayment.

The next issue will include my latest new crop trials for desert growing, sweet potatoes.

Buy local, not global.

R & R Homestead, P.O. Box 2738, Lancaster, CA 93539 (661) 728-0095 rrhomestead@qnet.com high desert-organic gardener.com



## Fire Safe Council Plans Party

At the Fire Safe Council's October meeting, Darren Kaye, Forest Service, Patrol 35, Green Valley Station, announced that the new and permanent home for the Santa Clara/Mojave Rivers Ranger District Office is officially open. The former office was destroyed in the Buckweed Fire in October 2007. You can find them for all of your forest service needs at the northwest corner of Sierra Highway and Crown Valley, 33708 Crown Valley Road, Acton, Monday through Friday from 8 am to 4:30 pm. Their phone number is (661) 296-9710.

The past few years, October began with considerable rainfall. Dry brush is quickly forgotten, less of a threat. But with the warm days that follow, brush can dry quickly.

Most of us think that Spring is the time for brush clearance. Winter is a good time to take care of some other important brush issues. Make sure that rain gutters are clear of leaves and dirt.

Inspect your trees; proper punning of dead limbs is better for your trees than allowing them to break off in a good wind storm or left to barely hang there.

We call those branches, "widow makers." One strong wind could free the branch, falling and possibly seriously injuring someone if it were to fall on them.

Tree branches that touch rooftops and are close to chimneys are a fire danger as are gutters filled with dried leaves and grass.

Our brush clearance crew is here to help with all your brush clearance and tree trimming needs. If you do your own trimming, we can chip it for you. We also split wood.Our rates are very reasonable.

Our December meeting is very special. Not only does December mean the end of another great year but it is our annual holiday gathering in Leona Valley on December 7 at 7 pm.

At this meeting, each year the FSC assembles approximately 50 personal packs, containing items needed for a couple of days, and which will be stored in the emergency bins. When we started six years ago people said we would never have enough. Maybe not, but each year we continue to make more packs that we hope we will never need. Following the assembly of the packs we share great potluck dishes and good company.

For more information please call 270-9911 or attend one of our regular meetings at 7 pm on the 1st Wednesday of the month alternating among Leona Valley, Green Valley and the Lakes. Our next two meetings are November 2 in Green Valley and our annual holiday celebration at Leona Valley on December 7.

# CERT Training Offered

Hi Team!

On Saturday, November 12 there will be a CPR certification class at St. Elizabeth Mission Church in Elizabeth Lake.

The class will be held from 8 am until 4:30 pm with a one-hour lunch break.

This course includes CPR/AED certification and First Aid training. The class is being taught by paramedics with reallife experience.

The cost is \$40 per person and is limited to CERT-trained personnel and local fire dept. volunteers. You will receive your certification at the end of the class. Payment will be required at the start of the class. Checks or cash (exact amount please) will be accepted.

CPR/AED and First Aid training is EXTREMELY important for CERT members. Please take advantage of this local class at this reasonable cost. Class size is also limited so please get back to me ASAP.

Regards, Robin Kennard Lakes & Valleys CERT Area Commander

#### Meth Suspect Arrested

By Norm Judd Senior staff writer

June Faber, 52, from
Lancaster was a passenger in a
white Ford Ranger pickup being
driven on Lake Elizabeth Road,
September 14, 2011 at 1:15
p.m. when alert Deputies
Dennis Miller and Sean Sorrow
stopped the truck for expired
plates and other obvious equipment violations near Munz
Ranch Road.

While Deputy Miller was warning the driver, Frank Patrick Costello, 53, of Littlerock, Deputy Sorrow noticed a meth pipe partially full, inside Faber's open purse.

Faber admitted using meth for several years. She was arrested for Possession of Narcotics and Paraphernalia and booked at Palmdale Station. Costello was released with a warning.

The Mountain Yodeler Big Kids Books

from page 17

In spite of everything that's going against him, there's something about Doug. Even when he acts like a jerk you know deep down he's really okay. At least for now.

When Doug's father loses his job it's no surprise. Doug's dad is lazy and mean, with an undisguised hatred for most everybody.

The family moves to a small town in upstate New York where an old friend of Doug's father has found him a job. But the old friend is trouble.

As a new kid in town that summer before eighth grade, Doug tries to find his way. He meets Lilly, who calls him a skinny thug, yet invites him to her father's store where he gets a job as a delivery boy.

Doug gets to know the town librarian, who encourages him to copy drawings of birds from an original Audubon book that's being sold off page by page to pay the city's bills. Doug takes great comfort and insight from these birds and from his careful drawing of them, and vows to

November 1, 2011 get all the pages back where they belong.

His grocery delivery job brings him in contact with several interesting town's folk who vacillate between liking and trusting him, and later fearing him when stores around town are broken into and his brother is the prime suspect.

School starts and teachers come into the picture. Some want to help him while others seem to want nothing more than to break him. Doug forges on.

Okay For Now has tremendous depth, with the characters around Doug burdened by their own baggage and motivations. Besides being a gripping story, Okay For Now offers insight into history (the Vietnam War and the moon landing), artistic technique (the Audubon drawings), and what it was like growing up in the 1960s.

Okay For Now is the companion book to the Newbery Honor award winner, The Wednesday Wars. It's classified as a Young Adult novel for approximately ages 13 and up. The book tackles some tough topics, and tackles them well.

Happy Reading!



# Gymkhana Season Ends

By Mike Pohlig, contributing writer

The final Leona Valley Gymkhana competition for 2011 was held on September 24 with many returning riders as well as first time riders enjoying a beautiful Fall day at the Lee Rackett Arena.

High Point winners were: AAA – Heather Ross, AA – Donna Kaye, A2 – Tie: Emilie Fouts & Sarah Nelson, A1 – Sabrina Rinehart, Novice 18 & Over – Janel Denham, N2 – Isabeau Ennis, N1 – Amy Carrol.

The gymkhanas are possible because of the following generous sponsors, and many volunteers who give their time throughout the year: Sponsors

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Ranchers Market Volunteers

- · John, Tara and Alyna Eaves
- Mike Ennis
- · Emilie Fouts
- Mark Hadden
- · Pete and Gayle Kaye
- Rick, Teri & Madeline Lutz Mike, Nancy & Kate Pohlig Dan, Tracy & Heather Ross Greg Shnell Pam and Eric VerMaas Bill and Tamar Wells Orion Westfall Jason Williams

Gymkhana Queens Miss – Heather Ross Jr. Miss – Madeline Lutz Little Miss – Alyna Eaves











Lancaster Performing Arts Center

Sunday, November 20th
TWO Performances: 3 & 7 PM

Call (661) 723 - 5950 or visit: LPAC.org Box office hours: Monday-Friday, Noon to 6 PM Saturday, Noon to 4 PM

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